

Penstemon wilcoxii Rydb.

Wilcox's penstemon

Scrophulariaceae (figwort family)

Penstemon wilcoxii

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Status: State Sensitive

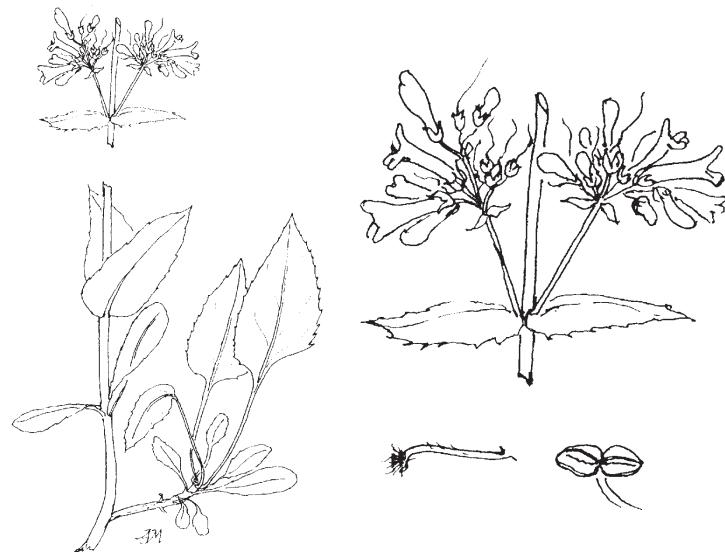
Rank: G4S1

General Description: Adapted from Stricker (1997): This species grows in clumps 16 to 40 in. (40-101 cm) high and has slender stems that are finely pubescent below the inflorescence. The basal leaves range from elliptical to broadly triangular, and are 1½ to 8 in. (4-20 cm) long. The petiole is about half the length of the blade. The stem leaf blades are clasping, lanceolate to heart shaped, mostly serrate and hairless and generally almost as large as the basal leaves. The inflorescence is a broadly spreading panicle that has 10 or more flowering stems. The calyx is 1/16 to 7/8 in. (2.5-5 mm) long. The bright blue to blue-purple funnel-shaped corolla is strongly two-lipped (bilabiate), and is ½ to 1 in. (13-23 mm) long, with a pale colored, striped throat. The palate of the corolla (a raised appendage on the lower petal) is lightly bearded with yellow hairs. The sepals are mostly lance shaped with margins that are entire to irregularly toothed. The 4 anthers are oval and slightly boat-shaped to flat, less than 1/16 in. (0.7-1 mm) long, and dehisce completely, with the sacs becoming nearly opposite. The yellow bearded staminode (a sterile stamen) is longer than the fertile stamens and is recurved at the tip.

Identification Tips: *Penstemon wilcoxii* appears to be an intermediate between *P. ovatus* (WA) and *P. attenuatus* (ID and MT). It is distinguished from *P. ovatus* by a variety of features. *P. ovatus* has leaves that are coarse toothed and finely pubescent and a strongly glandular inflorescence whereas *P. wilcoxii* has leaves that are fine toothed and glabrous and a lightly to moderately glandular inflorescence.

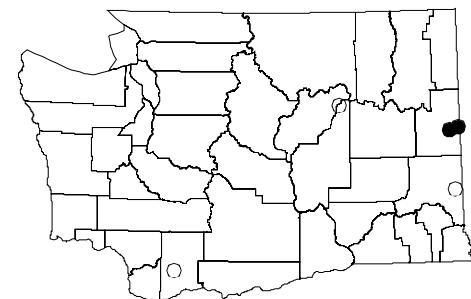
Phenology: This species has been identified in Washington from May to July.

Range: This species is found in Idaho, northwest Montana, northeast Oregon, and in eastern Washington in Spokane, Grant and Whitman counties. There is also an historical collection from Skamania County that may not be correctly identified.



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Known distribution
of *Penstemon wilcoxii*
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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Habitat: This species grows in Washington at elevations of 2300 to 4200 ft (701-1280 m). It has been found in shrubby areas, open forest, forested slopes, moist soil and rocky hills. Associated species include oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), mallow-leaf ninebark (*Physocarpus malvaceus*), rose (*Rosa* sp.), and snowberry (*Symporicarpos albus*).

Ecology: This regionally endemic species is found in a range of habitats.

State Status Comments: There are less than 5 Washington populations consisting of 100 to 1500 individuals. This plus the limited range of the species contribute to its status in Washington State.

Inventory Needs: Additional surveys are needed throughout Spokane County, Grant and Whitman counties in forested and shrubby habitats.

Threats and Management Concerns: This taxon has been found in fairly well protected parks, but there may be threats from recreational activities.

References:

Stricker, Dee. 1997. *Northwest Penstemons*. Flower Press, Columbia Falls, Montana. pg. 60.

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Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1959. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 4: Ericaceae Through Campanulaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 510 pp